(c) if not, what the policy of the Government is regarding the same?

A.—(a) & (b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) The Government have under consideration a proposal to transfer all cattle-pounds to local bodies.

Restrictions on District Boards regarding the deposit of their moneys into the District Urban Banks.

* 246 Q.—Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have restricted the amounts that each district board can deposit in the District Urban Banks;

(b) whether such restriction is not resulting in loss to the boards owing to the lower rate of interest obtaining in the Imperial Bank;

(c) what the reasons are that prompted the Government to issue such instructions; and

(d) whether the Government have any proposal before them to reconsider their decision and allow district boards to keep larger deposits with the District Banks?

A.—(a) & (c) In order to safeguard the moneys of local bodies and in order to prevent co-operative central banks from having surpluses much in excess of their requirements, the Government have ordered that local bodies should not make investments in such banks beyond certain specified limits without the sanction of Government.

(b) Where an investment in a co-operative central bank is not permitted by Government it is open to the local bodies to invest the money in Government securities which will fetch a reasonable rate of interest.

(d) The Government do not propose to reconsider the orders issued in the matter.

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"When the District Central Banks have got certain borrowing powers, may I know why the district boards' moneys are not permitted to be deposited in the respective central banks?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"The answer clearly states that it is not desirable to increase the balances in the co-operative banks."

Petition for the construction of a bridge across the branch of the Tungabhadra river between Desanur and Siruguppa.

* 247 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the ryots of Desanur village, Siruguppa taluk, Bellary district, have preferred a

1st November 1933]

request for a bridge across the branch of the Tungabhadra river which now separates Desanur from Siruguppa, and, if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

A.—In October 1927, the President, Union Board, Siruguppa, reported that one ryot, Desanur Rama Reddi, was anxious to have a bridge constructed at the site referred to. The proposal was examined and dropped on the ground that there was no justification for the large expenditure involved.

Medical Administration

Control of taluk headquarters hospitals by the Government.

* 248 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have decided on taking all Taluk Headquarters hospitals under their own control; and

(*b*) if so, when the decision will be put into effect?

A.—(*a*) No. The matter is under consideration.
(*b*) The question does not arise.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether there is any chance of Government making up its mind on this question? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" It is a question whether the local boards should be permitted to run these institutions or the Government should undertake them. The whole matter is still under consideration."

Unfavourable rates of prices charged by the Government Medical Stores for medicines supplied to taluk boards.

* 249 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it has been represented to the Government that the prices of medicines in the Medical Stores are very much higher than those prevailing in the market;

(*b*) whether the Government propose to permit the taluk boards to purchase their medicines in the open market in view of the exorbitant prices of the Medical Stores; and

(*c*) whether taluk boards are closing down dispensaries owing to lack of finances?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Some local bodies have reported that the prices charged by the Medical Stores Depot are higher than those charged by private firms, but a detailed investigation in the matter has definitely proved that the prices charged by the depot are on the whole much lower than those at which drugs of the same quality and purity can be